

## Masonry Now and Then

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After the death of Joseph the Most Worshipful Master at that time, for he was the great and grand Worshipful Master of the craft in that day.

After the death of Joseph there came to the throne of Egypt a cruel king over Odd Fellows.

And he placed the servitude of the Masons so heavy that they were not able to do their tasks. They made brick and builded cities. In this manner is where the beautiful arts of Freemasonry, became scattered among other nations. And now, when the tasks became so heavy that the craft was not able to bear them—Their cries ascended up to the great Master Builder of the Universe. And God heard their cry and came to Moses in a burning bush, and committed "THE WORD" unto him. Please read.

"And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptian and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites,

Now therefore behold the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me; and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.

Come now therefore and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

And Moses said unto God who am I that I should go unto Pharaoh and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt.

And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a

token unto thee, that I have sent thee, when thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel and shall say unto them The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, what is his name? what shall I say unto them?

And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel I AM hath sent me unto you." (Ex. 3-7-14)

Here again God commits "THE WORD" to Moses and wherever this word remains among man there is life and fellowship. It becomes the tree of life to the fellowcraft. As a study it concerns itself ultimately with practical life. And on this firm eternal and foundational principle of right and truth lies the foundation of every moral obligation in Masonry. This is the plumbline that is yet to be seen in the hands of Zerubbabel with those seven which will cause the Masons to stand erect amid the fiercest tempest of hardships, and like a tall column lift their heads above the frowns of envy and slander of the hellish spirits of a demagogue. So Moses, as a Master Builder with Aaron as a Noble Warden leads the craft out from under the Mastership of Oddfellows. (From Egypt) across the Red Sea. We find them in the wilderness for forty years. Moses leads them to the mount, where as a body they are taught that they have a great and grand worshipful Master to hear and obey who rules the Universe. In the course of time Moses is taken away from them, and Joshua is commanded to take his place as Master Builder. Joshua now leads the craft. For God speaks to him in this manner.

"Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from

it to the right hand or to the left that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Then Joshua commanded the people saying.

"Pass through the host and command the people saying Prepare you victuals: for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God giveth you to possess it." (Joshua. 1-7-11)

After the command was given to Joshua. He started for the promised inheritance with the craftsmen. They are now up to the river of Jordan ready to pass over to Jerico. And the promise was that the sceptre should not depart from Judah. So the tribe of Judah must pass over first, as God so commanded—And Masonry has and do acknowledge this fact. Please read.

"The entrance of the candidate into the Lodge was symbolized by the tribe of Judah because they were the first to cross the Jordan and enter the promised land coming from the darkness and servitude as it were, of the wilderness by many dangerous and wearisome journeys into the light and liberty of Canaan."

History and Cyclopaedia of Freemasonry by Macoy Oliver.

Dear reader you cannot help but see the undisputed chain of Masonry as God himself linked it together. And our quotation above does not only remind us that the sceptre given to Judah was not the only connecting link. But when the twelve priest got in the midst of the sea

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